

Roy Lewsader, Jr. gave the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country and will be remembered as a hero, a father, and a husband. On behalf of all of the people of the 8th District, I extend my deepest condolences to his wife, Melissa; daughters, Briana, Ozzra'D, Cheyenne, and Keebee; son, Billy; and the rest of his family and friends who love and miss him today.

SENATOR BYRD'S HISTORIC 18,000th
VOTE

HON. NICK J. RAHALL, II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2007

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, today is an historic date in the United States Congress, and for my State of West Virginia. Today, our State's senior Senator—the senior Senator of all Senior Senators—and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, ROBERT C. BYRD, has just cast his 18,000th vote.

On April 30, 1990, Senator BYRD cast his 12,134th vote, surpassing Senator William Proxmire, the previous record holder.

Now, he has cast 18,000 votes. Talk about a record. They say records are made to be broken. I will be very surprised if anyone ever breaks this one. It would take a Senator on super steroids!

Madam Speaker, I take this opportunity, not only to congratulate my fellow West Virginian, and my mentor, but to say how proud the people of West Virginia are of him.

Senator BYRD was a virtual orphan boy raised by his aunt and coal-mining uncle in the hills of southern West Virginia. Through hard work, determination, a strong religious belief, an unrelenting drive to gain knowledge, and his belief that the United States is indeed the land of opportunity, he has climbed to the highest pinnacle of political success. He went from a coal miner's shack to the ornate Appropriations Committee Suite he now occupies in the U.S. Capitol. Unable to afford college after graduating from high school, he became the first person to begin and complete law school while serving in the United States Congress.

He has worked pumping gas and as a butcher in a local grocery store, and as a welder in the shipyards of Baltimore and Tampa during World War II. After the war, he owned and operated a grocery store in Sophia, West Virginia. These are unlikely jobs for someone with the kind of power our Senator has come to wield in Washington. But I believe they helped to mold the man in a way that I think would be of benefit to more of our leaders, and, in turn, to our nation. I think the world of politics would have a better reputation if more politicians lived the kind of hard-scrabble life that Senator BYRD endured in his younger days. Certainly, it would be better if more of us had a wonderful woman like his gracious Erma—his angel in heaven—by our sides, giving us counsel and encouragement.

Now Senator BYRD has cast more votes than any other U.S. Senator, and he has done so approaching each vote with depth of thought and breadth of experience.

He has held more Senate leadership positions than any other Senator, including two stints as the Senate Majority Leader. And, as I have already mentioned, he is the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

While he is the longest serving Senator in history, I am pleased to point out that on December 2, 2009, he will have served in the U.S. Congress for a total of 56 years, 10 months, and 29 days, making him the longest serving member of Congress in history. I am already preparing my remarks for that historic day.

HONORING MY MOTHER

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2007

Ms. LINDA SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my personal heroes, my mother, Maria Sánchez, on her retirement yesterday after 30 years teaching in the classroom. I can honestly and proudly say that my mother is a true American success story.

An immigrant, she came to this country without knowing English, without much money in her pocket, and without a job waiting for her.

Her life's been hard, and we kids didn't make it any easier. But she and my father taught us to work hard, persevere, and play by the rules.

My mother raised seven children and sent them all to college. She is the only mother in U.S. history to send two daughters to Congress.

And she did this while going to night school to get her A.A., then her B.A., then a teaching credential and, ultimately, a master's degree. She cleaned houses in her "spare time," and found creative ways to make ends meet for a family of nine.

As an English/Spanish dual-immersion teacher, she helped children better express themselves and communicate with each other—shaping our community one student at a time.

Her teaching career may be ending, but she'll keep leading and touching lives. Mom, here's to you!

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
FOREIGN OPERATIONS AND RE-
LATED PROGRAMS APPROPRI-
ATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2764) making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Chairman, during times of crisis, the United States has always supported her friends. Egypt is our friend. Egypt is not only our friend, Egypt is our strategic partner, our peace partner and our military partner in the Middle East. It is shameful how we are treating our friend with the restrictions on military aid to Egypt in this bill. As

such, I rise in strong opposition to the amendment by Rep. ANTHONY WEINER removing \$200 million in military aid to Egypt, and in strong support of the amendment by Rep. CHARLES BOUSTANY allowing military support to continue to Egypt without conditions. Egypt and the United States have a valuable, key and strategic partnership, one that has been underscored by the recent developments in the Gaza Strip. It would be toxic to the relationship that the United States has with Egypt, and our relationship to those moderate Arab states in the Middle East, for this bill to be adopted with these restrictions.

In April of this year, Secretary of Defense Robert Gates said that: "I have long considered Egypt one of America's most important, even indispensable, partners. . . Security challenges in the Middle East are significant, but can be overcome by Egypt and the United States working closely together in the region." Just last week, the world saw Hamas take over the Gaza Strip. Hundreds, if not thousands, of men, women, children, senior citizens, and the disabled are fleeing this region as refugees, many ending up in Egypt.

In response to this crisis, Egypt's President, Hosni Mubarak, has invited Israel's Prime Minister, Ehud Olmert, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, and Jordan's President King Abdullah II for a summit this Monday, June 25, 2007 in an effort to negotiate peace in this region. I commend to my colleagues the following portion of an article dated June 21, 2007 from the Associated Press that goes into more detail about the summit:

RAMALLAH, WEST BANK.—Closing ranks against Hamas, Egypt's president invited Israeli, Palestinian and Jordanian leaders to a peace summit, officials said Thursday, the biggest show of support yet by moderate Arab states for beleaguered Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

The meeting will take place Monday in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh, said Israeli government spokeswoman Miri Eisin. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has invited Abbas, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Jordan's King Abdullah II. Jordan confirmed Abdullah would attend.

Abbas will call for a resumption of peace talks with Israel, arguing that only progress toward Palestinian statehood can serve as a true buffer against Hamas, which took control of Gaza by force last week, Abbas aide Saeb Erekat said.

"The most important thing to realize is that time is of the essence," Erekat said. "We need to deliver the end of occupation, a Palestinian state. If we don't have hope, Hamas will export despair to the people."

As immediate steps, Abbas will ask Israel to remove West Bank checkpoints that disrupt daily life and trade, and to transfer hundreds of millions of dollars in Palestinian tax funds Israel froze after Hamas came to power last year.

Also on Thursday, Palestinian dual nationals and foreigners working in Gaza were allowed to pass through Israel for other points. About 60 Palestinian-Americans left Gaza for Jordan, and eight World Bank employees left the coastal strip, an Israeli army spokeswoman said.

Late Wednesday, 35 Gazans who had been stuck at the main Gaza-Israel passenger crossing for several days were sent to Egypt via Israel, the spokeswoman said. Among those who left were gunmen from Abbas' Fatah movement, their wives and children.

Hundreds of men, women and children rushed to the crossing after the Hamas takeover, among them Fatah loyalists who feared

they'd be harmed by Hamas, despite the militants' offer of amnesty. By Thursday, the passage, rank with the stench of urine and garbage, was nearly empty after it became clear that a mass exit to the West Bank was not approved.

Earlier Wednesday, Israel took in several of the sick and wounded in the crowd.

In Washington, Olmert said he would propose to his Cabinet on Sunday that it unlock frozen funds, though he did not say how much money he thought Israel should free. Israel is holding about \$550 million in tax revenues it collects on behalf of the Palestinians.

Despite the talk about peace, however, the Hamas takeover has dealt a setback to statehood efforts, with the Islamic militants in charge of Gaza and Abbas in charge of the West Bank."

This Amendment is even opposed by the President. In a statement of White House policy, the Office on Management and Budget says:

"The Administration opposes the prohibition on a portion of the foreign military financing to Egypt contained in section 699. Military assistance is critical to our strategic partnership with Egypt and has contributed to a broad range of U.S. objectives in the region. Such a restriction will undermine the U.S. relationship with Egypt and send the wrong message to this important ally in the region."

As a former Member of this subcommittee, I personally appreciate the challenges that Chairwoman LOWEY and Ranking Minority Member WOLF not only face, but surpass. This bill provides significant funding increases for many programs that I have, and will continue to, support.

My objection is to Section 699 of the bill, a new provision, which sets conditions on \$200 million of the \$1.3 billion in military assistance to Egypt. This assistance is pending certification of the Secretary of State that Egypt is taking steps toward enactment of a new judicial law, including the principal components of the law and separation of the budget of the judiciary from that of the Ministry of Justice; steps to review criminal procedures and mass demonstrations by Egypt's police force; and steps to detect and destroy the smuggling network into the Gaza strip.

The Thirteenth Congressional District of Michigan contains one of the highest concentrations of Arabs in the United States. These tax-paying, hard-working Americans demand that the United States respect not just their homeland, but the past, present and future effort that Egypt has made manifest over the years as a strategic partner and toward peace. To remove this key support from Egypt, at this point, would signal an unnecessary reticence by the United States toward one of the few allies we have in the Middle East.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support Egypt, to support peace in the Middle East, and to support the amendment offered by my colleague from Louisiana, Congressman BOUSTANY and oppose the amendment offered by my colleague from New York, Congressman WEINER.

HONORING FRED S. PYLE

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 22, 2007

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, today at Arlington National Cemetery, my constituent and friend Fred Pyle of Ormond Beach, Florida was laid to rest. It was my honor to have had the opportunity to know Fred and his family. His service to our country through our Armed Forces and law enforcement is a shining example of American patriotism.

The son of Martin and Mae Emma Pyle, he was born in Somerset, Pennsylvania on April 17, 1920.

Fred was one of six sons, five of whom served in the United States military during World War II and were recognized as being the first family of five brothers to serve our Nation's armed services in that conflict. He first entered into the service in 1938 joining the National Guard in his hometown of Somerset. He was later selected to serve as an MP and saw combat with the 726th Police Battalion in World War II during what was known as the "Red Ball Express," when Allied Forces landed at Normandy and began their push towards Germany. His service later took him to Okinawa, Japan where his responsibilities included the overseeing of Japanese Prisoners of War. In addition to his service in World War II, Fred served in the Korean War and at the prestigious Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland where he served as Chief Master of Arms.

Fred achieved the rank of Staff Sergeant and was a recipient of several prestigious awards including the Victory Medal of World War II, American Theatre Ribbon, American Defense Ribbon and the Good Conduct Medal. He was also recalled during the Korean conflict where he honorably served as an instructor in a NCO academy and earned himself the Occupational Medal (Germany). He left the Army in 1952 with an honorable discharge.

After his service, Fred graduated from the Institute of Applied Science in Chicago and became a police officer with the Somerset Police Department where he worked for more than 10 years.

With the passing of Fred Pyle, America has lost an outstanding citizen and a shining example of a family's commitment and service to our Nation. He will be remembered as a patriotic American, a pillar of our community and a compassionate husband and a loving father. To his wife of 67 years, Stella, his son Bruce, his three grandchildren and one great-grandson, in addition to his loving family, we offer our deepest sympathy.

Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize Fred Pyle's contributions and to ask all Members of the U.S. House of Representatives of the 110th Congress to join me in remembering a great American hero.

CELEBRATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF TITLE IX OF THE EDUCATION AMENDMENTS OF 1972 AND RECOGNIZING THE NEED TO CONTINUE PURSUING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 changed everything about our college admissions process. Led by the late Representatives Patsy T. Mink and Edith Green, Congress established a principle we often take for granted today—the prohibition of gender discrimination in any federally funded educational program. The effects of the law have been substantial.

In 1972, only 42 percent of Bachelors of Arts degrees were earned by women; by 2004 that number rose to 57 percent. Only 9 percent of medical degrees were awarded to women; now it's above 45 percent. Not surprisingly, law degrees were the most imbalanced. In 1972, only 7 percent of law degrees were held by women and by 2004 almost 50 percent went to women. Only 15 percent of PhD's went to women before title IX and that number is now close to 50 percent.

This progress is worth celebrating but we have plenty more to do. Title IX has as much utility now as it did in 1972. Women continue to face substantial barriers, especially in high wage fields such as science, technology, engineering and math. Sexual harassment remains pervasive in schools and on college campuses. Women and girls' sports teams still do not receive an equal share of resources.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE COMPARATIVE STUDY OF VACCINATED AND UNVACCINATED POPULATIONS ACT OF 2007

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 22, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today I am reintroducing very important bipartisan legislation that I hope will resolve the question of whether or not there is a link between the increased incidence of autism and the use of thimerosal in vaccines. Many parents have raised concerns about the effect that thimerosal, which is made of mercury—a known neurotoxin that is widely used as a preservative in vaccines—may have had on a child's chances of developing autism and other neurological disorders. The study mandated by this new legislation would try to help resolve this controversy once and for all. While vaccines have been instrumental in reducing the incidence of many once-common diseases, we owe it to parents and children to study and resolve the question of the possible link between thimerosal in vaccines and autism. What is ultimately needed to resolve this issue one way or the other is a comprehensive national study comparing outcomes between vaccinated and unvaccinated children.